

Carangas-
Chipaya

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755 These civilities were of the usual type, i.e., they were
756 carried out by bending the knee before the person honored and
[596] simulating an embrace.

[22] Two dishes of meat were then carried in, signaling the be-
[597] ginning of the feast which the patient offered his doctor and his
relatives, doubtless to repay them for their trouble.

The magician, who up to now had preserved a serious and
imperturbable expression, appeared afterward in a more cheerful
mood and with a smile on his lips accepted the cups of alcohol and
the dishes which his client, full of gratitude, offered him.

755 However great the respect of the sick man for his healer was
[123] and the impression caused by the ceremony, the patient did not
[597] consider it superfluous to question me on his case and took the
laxative I administered to him with gratitude. He had great need
of it, all the more so since, to celebrate his return to health and
the beneficent treatment of which he had been the subject, he
ingurgitated a remarkable portion of the sacrificed sheep and
washed down this feast with impressive bumpers of alcohol. I still
do not know how this unfortunate man was able to endure these
new excesses. He got well nevertheless, and this complicated
ceremony seems at least to have had the positive result of actually
[123] transforming his deportment. Up to this point I had had an enemy
in him who had picked quarrels with me on every occasion; each
time that I met him after this, he astonished me by his friendliness
and courtesy.

I only wish that this good disposition had lasted as long as
the memory of his experience.

Funeral rites.

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[762] In the course of the weeks spent in Chipaya only one death
occurred in the village, that of a woman who had committed suicide
for obscure reasons, probably out of resentment against her husband.
Arriving at the spot shortly after the event, I did not notice any
behavior among those present which could be interpreted as ritual.

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151 of those near them. The envy which tortures these contained and
578 impassive beings manifests itself in an underhand manner in low acts
[154] of revenge, in denunciations of each other to the alcaldes, and in
interminable quarrels. Some Čipaya seem to realize this state of
mind and complain about it. One of them who had traveled a bit
spoke to me of it with bitterness: "Here," he said, "all hate each
other, all envy each other, all steal from each other, and it does
not make a good life."

593 Married life often reflects the brutality and ill-nature of the
578 characters. Disputes between spouses are frequent and degenerate
into volleys of blows with sticks which the husband administers to
his wife or reciprocally. The in-laws take part in these domestic
conflicts and add to them. These quarrels can give way to drama:
• [1762] a few days after my arrival in Chipaya, a woman in a sudden fit of
hysterical anger against her husband strangled herself with her own
hands.

836 Sexual morality seems to be, from what the Čipaya told me,
bad from our point of view. Young girls enjoy a great deal of free-
dom before marriage, and no importance seems to be granted to
848 virginity. Illegitimate children are welcome and do not prevent them
837 from marrying. In contrast, infractions against conjugal fidelity
can have serious repercussions. Some women seem to let themselves
be seduced easily, and these cases of adultery or attempted adultery
593 provoke in turn brawls and scuffles. In general there is no apparent
affection between man and wife. The women have nonetheless a
privileged position, and their authority is incontestable. They
speak to their husbands in firm and decisive tones, and no decision
can be /207/ made without their consent. The children are never
157 mistreated. From the point of view of character, the Čipaya com-
177 pare very favorably with the Uro of Ancoaqui, their brothers in race,
who still more than they have felt the pernicious Aymara influence.
609 The last 30 Uro of the Desaguadero compete in hostility and distrust
161 of strangers, even well-meaning ones, and it is hardly pleasant to
stay with them.